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Thesis

The English Lake District as Interpreted in the Poems of Wordsworth

by

Louise Elizabeth Whitten

(A.B., Boston University, 1931)

submitted in partial fulfilment of the

requirements for the degree of

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I. The English Lake District as Interpreted in the Poems of Wordsworth

Introduction

The object of this thesis is to reveal Wordsorth as an interpreter of the English Lake District. The writer has endeavored to set forth the close relationship of the poems, through the interpretation of allusions and descriptions, to scenes in the Lakeland which seem to have suggested them. Through the association of his poetry to the district, there follows consequently a secondary aim, an intelligent appreciation of the poems of Wordsworth.

The development of this study first requires a general knowledge of the Lake District; and secondly, a comprehensive understanding of the growth of a poetical mind through the influence of the country in which the poet lived. The poems considered then are only those directly connected with the Lake District. The most familiar passages will not be quoted in the main body of the thesis, but for the interest of the general reader they will be cited in the Appendix. In reviewing the life of the poet, the writer has intentionally excluded the years he spent in France, Scotland, and Southern England. The association of Wordsworth with the Lake Poets is also eliminated, except in so far as it may further the object of this study.

II. The General Description of the Lake District as a Background for the Study of Wordsworth

Any consideration of Wordsworth should include an intimate knowledge of the country in which the poet lived,for one cannot fully appreciate the meaning,truth,and beauty of his poems,until he has become acquainted with the "native region" in which his poetry has its deeply imbedded roots.Lakeland should be seen as it is,without the decorations of poetic illusion.

In general,the Lake District is that section of England which comprises the three counties of Cumberland,Westmoreland, and Lancashire.The region as a whole is characterized by the individuality of the valleys,the peculiar grouping of the mountains,and the numerous lakes.The valleys are small in comparison with the high hills which separate them,and are distinctive for their plane-like character.The lower slopes of the mountains are richly wooded,while the summits are of jagged rock.The heights which are too lofty for hills and too smooth for mountains are called fells,and are particularly numerous in this district.There are many enchanting lakes and tarns which, like great mirrors lying on the floors of the vales,catch and reverse in reflection the bordering woodlands and the passing clouds.Since their character can best be drawn by one who has not only lived among them but loved them,the poet should describe the lake shores.

"Sublimity is the result of nature's first great dealings with the superfices of the earth;but the general tendency of her subsequent operations is towards the protection of beauty,by a

multiplicity of symmetrical parts uniting in a consistent whole. This is everywhere exemplified along the margins of these lakes. Masses of rock that have been precipitated from the heights into the area of waters,lie in some places like stranded ships,or have acquired the compact structure of jutting piers,or project in little peninsulas crested with native woods.The smallest rivulet,one whose silent influx is scarcely noticeable in a season of dry weather,so faint is the dimple made by it in the surface of the smooth lake,will be found to have been not useless in shaping by its deposit of gravel and soil in time of flood,a curve that not otherwise would have existed.But the more powerful brooks,encroaching upon the level of the lake,have,in course of time,given birth to ample promontories of aweeping outline,that contrast boldly with the longitudinal base of the steeps on the opposite shore,while their flat or gently sloping surfaces never fail to introduce into the midst of desolation and barrenness,the elements of fertility,even where the habitations of men may not have been raised." (I)

An atmosphere of beauty and romance spreads over the whole district through the names of the ancient hills of Fairfield,Helvellyn,Blencathera,and Skiddaw;or the pastoral vales of Borrowdale,Easdale,and Ennerdale;or the secluded meres like Windermere,Derwentwater,and Grasmere.In order to discern the more specific beauties of Wordsworthshire,let us make an imaginary tour of the Lake District.From Lake Windermere,which is primarily the center for tourists,we will proceed to the localities permanently identified with the poet.Lake Windermere is called the queen of the lakes.It is not only the largest,but

(I) "Guide to the Lakes"-Section I,page I8.

through its rich variety of scenery is one of the most picturesque. Some of the particular spots of beauty are the little wooded islands, which adorn the center of the mere. Of these Belle Isle and Ladye Holme are the most important, both historically and for their verdure. The margin of the lake is very irregular, being formed of numerous bays and promontories, which descend with gentle slopes into the water. On the western side, or in front of us if we are standing on the shore of the lake at Bowness, are the beautiful crags of Furness Fell covered with trees and shrubs. From every part of the lake are visible the high summits of Helm-crag, Hammerscar, and Silver-how. At the northern end of the mere lies the little town of Ambleside, behind which rise Nab-scar, Fairfield, Wansfell, and Red Screes, while to the west we catch a glimpse of the Coniston Fells and Langdale Pikes, "the Lusty Twins". Of all the lakes we will find Windermere the most receptive to light and shade, particularly when the water reflects the reddish hue of the sunset.

We will now ferry across the lake to Hawkshead. This is a small market town in the vale of Esthwaite, lying between Coniston and Windermere. An ancient Gothic church standing on the hillside looks down over the village. The heights of Wetherlam and the Langdale Pikes appearing on the horizon give a romantic beauty to the valley. However, the lake and vale of Esthwaite will impress us more for its atmosphere of peacefulness than for grandeur. From Hawkshead we will pass over the moorland to Coniston water, with the massive front of Coniston "old man" rising above the lake. As we drive across country, it seems as if we were on the very tops of the mountains, even at the end of the world.

We travel through mountain passes of bare crags and boulders into the bleak region of Wastdale and Wastwater. It is the deepest of the lakes, and the overhanging cliffs of the rugged mountains give it an aspect of desolation. The scenery, in general, impresses us with a feeling of gloom, and almost a sense of weirdness. Here we get a very clear view of "the screes", which is a steep ridge of rock rising abruptly from the lake. The moorlands of this district are particularly varied with scattering beds of heather, moss, and ferns. Here and there are patches of black peat bogs, and sheep are roaming everywhere.

Returning to Coniston, we will ascend Hammerscar, a tributary of the Coniston mountains, for our first glimpse of Grasmere. From this point DeQuincey has portrayed perfectly the vale of Grasmere as it appears to the tourist for the first time. The author describes it thus:

"The whole vale of Grasmere suddenly breaks upon the view in a style of almost theatrical surprise, with its lovely valley stretching in the distance, the lake lying immediately below, with its solemn boat-like island of five acres in size, seemingly floating on its surface; its exquisite outline on the opposite shore, revealing all its little bays and wild sylvan margin, feathered to the edge with wild flowers and ferns." (I)

Resuming our tour northward to Grasmere, we pass along narrow roads winding in and out and bordered by stone walls. The hillsides and glens are very picturesque; and we are impressed by their greenness, which characterizes all the vales of this district. We find Grasmere to be one of the most delightful spots of the Lake Region, as well as the heart of Wordsworthshire.

(I) "Literary Reminiscences". Thomas DeQuincey
Vol. I, Chapt. X, page 259.

The lake,which is scarcely half a mile wide,presents an exquisite picture of peacefulness.The village of Grasmere itself lies at the head of the lake,near the banks of the river Rothay.From behind,towers great Helvellyn,while looking down upon it from the west are Silver-how,Helm-crag,and the ridge of Loughrigg.In the immediate view rise Fairfield and Nab-scar.From the latter of these heights the scene looks like a net-work of little valleys,walled in by greater mountain barriers.Rydal water just beyond Grasmere,although it is scarcely large enough to be called a lake,is another pleasant spot in this region.It is a quiet mere lying in a sheltered green valley.

From Grasmere to Thirlmere we will drive over the pass of Dunmail Raise.Steep hills rise on either side of us,and at the head of the pass the landscape is singularly wild and bare.On our right in the distance lies the tarn of Grisedale,while the beautiful little valley of Easdale is on the left.From here we catch the first glimpse of the long and narrow lake of Thirlmere.It is a lonely sheet of water with an interesting irregularity of outline.We are in the vale of Keswick,and from the top of a very steep decline we get a lovely view of the town lying at the bottom.The lake of Keswick,Derwentwater,is not as large as Windermere,but it is also adorned with wooded islands, of which the largest is St.Herbert's Isle.As we stand at the head of the lake,on one side is a beautiful landscape of fields and groves;on the opposite shore steep rocks and sliffs tower over the water.The characteristic beauty of this region lies in the variety of waterfalls,which,tumbling from cliff to cliff, pour down from the summits.One of the most romantic gorges is

that of Lodore Force,which falls almost perpendicularly into the lake from the projecting crags above.In the distance the summits of Skiddaw and Saddleback are visible.The whole view of the vale of Keswick impresses us with its grandeur,yet it gives us a feeling of awe.

Leaving beautiful Derwentwater,we will go to Cockermouth by the way of Buttermere and Crummock water.There is nothing very remarkable about these lakes except perhaps their extreme loneliness.However,the mountains of Grassmoor,Yew Crag,Honiston, and Red Pike,which surround the vale are among the highest in Cumberland.To the west of these waters lies Ennerdale Lake, which is made more desolate by its environing barren crags.Beyond the lake rises Great Gable,while the south is guarded by the mountain,Pillar.We arrive now in Cockermouth,a small market village on the northern border of the Lake District.It is situated on the banks of the river Derwent,and it is of some interest because of an old baronial castle with its broken battlements.We will return eastward to Keswick by the way of Bassenthwaite Lake and Skiddaw,"the monarch of the Lake Country".From Keswick we will take the direct route to Penrith, passing through the valley of Threlkeld.Penrith is another ancient village on the north eastern border of Lakeland.The town,which still bears its British name for Red Hill,is built upon the side of an elevation.On the summit of this incline stands the old solitary Beacon,visible from almost every part of the town.If one were to ascend the tower and gaze out over the landscape,the prospect would appear as that of a vast amphitheater arched with rugged mountains.

From Penrith we will proceed by the river Lowther to the lake of Ullswater,which is totally concealed by the bordering hills.The view from one of its heights takes in an extensive prospect of beautiful woodlands and mountains.On the eastern side the uneven cliffs rise abruptly from the water,while the opposite shore is bordered with forests.Here in the dense growth is the picturesque little cataract called in northern dialect Airey Force.By following a narrow footpath across the hills for about a mile,we come to a chasm through which a small waterfall is breaking its way.The Force presents a lovely picture,if one stands on the footbridge over the gulf,when the sunlight is falling upon it through the foliage.From Ullswater we pass to Paterdale and thence over Kirkstone Pass.On our right are deep trenched gorges and the mountain ridge of great Helvellyn. Through the wooded glen of Paterdale we approach Brother's water,and ascend the famous Kirkstone Pass.On the summit of this ascent we should pause,and allow ourselves to become imbued with the extreme quietness of the spot.Leaving this lonely solitude, we descend the steep decline to Ambleside,and thus our tour ends as it began at Windermere.

III. The Life of Wordsworth from the Point of View of the Influence of his Country upon his Poetical Mind

It is fundamentally necessary for the interpretation of the poems of Wordsworth to possess some knowledge of the life he led amid his natural surroundings. Since "The Prelude" is the chief source of information concerning his early years, his life as here presented is drawn primarily from his autobiographical poem.

Wiliam Wordsworth was born in Cockermouth, Cumberland on the seventh of April, 1770. He spent his early boyhood partly at Cockermouth and partly with his mother's parents in Penrith. The chief feature associated with his early home was the terrace-walk at the foot of the garden, which overlooked the river Derwent and the distant ruins of the castle. The freedom from restraint during his childhood directed his attention toward the beauty of his surroundings.

In 1778 he was sent to the Grammar-School at Hawkshead. The town is interesting because of its irregular-shaped squares, and a mountain brook which flows in a sort of channel under one of the streets. At the time of the poet it was only half hidden by flagstones, and was an object of curiosity to the children. The boys were boarded in the neighboring houses, and the dame with whom Wordsworth lodged was one Anne Tyson. He held in deep reverence this matron with whom he found simple hospitality and guidance. The school policy at Hawkshead must have been, that nature is the greatest master, for the school hours were short and disciplinary rules were negligible. The boys were given

absolute freedom in exploring the neighboring moors and the lakes of Esthwaite and Windermere.Wordsworth has himself told us that his school-time spent at Hawkshead was a happy one,

" ..... happy time
It was indeed for all of us -for me
It was a time of rapture!" (I)

The playgrounds of the Hawkshead boys were the fields,lakes, woods,and hillsides;and their games were crag-climbing for ravens' nests,and setting springs for woodcocks.One of the most exciting of their winter sports was skating on the lake of Esthwaite.It was then that the band of skaters,"hissed along the polished ice in games confederate"(2), from which the poet would sometimes withdraw.Early in the morning,alone or with a friend, he was fond of encircling Esthwaite Lake,"five miles of pleasant wandering"(3). From childhood he was conscious of the influence of nature,for he chose the woods,rivers,hills,and mountains for his companions.Wordsworth like the other boys frequented the hills and vales for the sake of hunting,snaring birds,and the thrill of "shouldering crags";and in the course of these pastimes,he became a devoted lover of nature.

In October 1787 Wordsworth was sent to St.John's College, Cambridge.Since his youth was spent in the enjoyment of nature, it is not extraordinary that he passed his time rather indifferently at the university.He felt that "he was not for that hour, nor for that place"(4). However,one influence of these years at the university might have been its associations with Milton and other poets,suggesting to Wordsworth that he,too,would become a poet.Of his college life it is only his first summer vacation

(I) "The Prelude"-Book I,line 428.
(2) Ibid Book I,line 434.
(3) Ibid Book II,line 336.
(4) Ibid Book III,line 81.

that is of immediate interest. Wordsworth has recorded two moments of poetic consciousness. The first was when he was scarcely fourteen years old. (I) He was walking along the road between Hawkshead and Ambleside at sunset. The change which it effected filled him with a new pleasure; then he began to feel the influence of nature. The second occasion was in his college vacation, when he returned to his beloved vale of Esthwaite. He was returning home from a night of revelry and was deeply stirred by the morning sunrise. At this moment he consciously felt the impulse to devote himself to poetry, or to become, as it were, a "dedicated Spirit",

> "I made no vows, but vows
> Were then made for me; bond unknown to me
> Was given, that I should be, else sinning greatly
> A dedicated Spirit." (2)

Wordsworth had left the Lake Country for the first time to attend college at Cambridge. His life until 1799 constitutes practically another period, and although it is significant in the development of his poetical mind, a detailed account of these years is outside of this immediate study. In 1791 he was in London uncertain as to his future vocation, and later in the same year landed in France. During the time from 1795-1799 he was settled in England, first living at Racedown, and then at Alfoxden. The year 1798 is important for the appearance of "The Lyrical Ballads" and his association with Coleridge. It was in 1799 as the poet and Coleridge were walking over the hills of Westmoreland and Cumberland, that he was attracted to Grasmere.

Thus it was that Wordsworth settled in Dove Cottage, in that part of Grasmere known as Town-End. It was originally a

(1) "An Evening Walk" -page 3, Poetical Works, (Cambridge edition)
(2) "The Prelude"-Book IV, line 335.

hostelry where travellers going from Ambleside to Keswick were entertained.The house is a small stone and plaster cottage,and facing the lake,stands on the old road that connects Grasmere and Ambleside.In I890 Dove Cottage was acquired by the English Nation as a memorial,and it has been restored as nearly as possible to its former condition.The principal room of the cottage is now used for the registering of visitors.The fire-place,the grate,and the cupboard are old.The stone work of the window and its seat are the same as that which existed in the poet's time.Passing the staircase,one comes to the kitchen which is exactly as it was in I800.The visitor wonders how Mary and Dorothy were able to perform their housewifely duties in so small an inclosure.In that time pots and pans adorned the walls, and hooks can still be seen in the ceiling where hams and clothes were hung.One of the three rooms in the upper story was the principal living-room of the family.It served as a study and a library,and here most of the indoor work of the poet was done.It is the most interesting room in the cottage with portraits hanging on the walls,many of which are of the poet himself.In a small adjoining room is the so-called museum added by DeQuincey,which contains copies of all the poet's own works, and their successive editions from I798.Steps descend to the garden with its flowers of foxglove and gowan.A stone walk leads up to the top of the orchard,and many of the stones were cut by the poet himself.The "moss arbor" has been replaced by a stone seat.Below the walk is the "rocky well" with its fringe of daffodils and marigolds,which Wordsworth and his sister planted there.Although the view is interrupted now by new buildings,the

very atmosphere centering around the garden would stir a poetic feeling in the most unpoetic of natures. (I)

A life of Wordsworth cannot be complete without mention of Dorothy,the "sister of his Soul".In the first two years at Grasmere she was his only companion,giving herself with an untiring devotion.From childhood through their sympathetic interests,the brother and sister had been inseparable.Her observations of nature were often as keen as his,and the poet was indebted to her for many suggestions.Together they roamed the fields,hills,and mountains of their "native region".They used to go out on the fells both by day and by night watching nature with the most acute perception.It was Dorothy who took upon herself the task of writing his verses from dictation.In I802 Mary Hutchinson became a member of the family circle at Grasmere.It seemed to be the concentrated ambition of these two women,wife and sister,to devote their energies to the development of a poetic gift.

Nearly all of the best poetry of Wordsworth was written while he was living in Grasmere.His poems,for the most part, were composed in the open air,while he sat on a mountain side, or as he followed the path of a stream,or paced some terrace-walk.The brook running through Easdale,just north of Grasmere, was a favorite haunt,and here thousands of verses were suggestive of an inspiration.(2) It was in the years at Dove Cottage that he wrote half of "The Prelude" and began "The Excursion". The autobiographical poem was chiefly composed on a green mountain terrace,on the Easdale side of Helm-crag,called Under

(I) See Appendix,page i. (Description of Dove Cottage as seen by DeQuincey in I807.)
(2) Poems "On the Naming of Places"-Poetical Works, Page 247.

Lancrigg. It was a spot which Wordsworth said he knew by heart. Although this poem was finished in I805, it was not published until after his death in I850. "The Prelude" is a simple story of his life from his childhood to the years in Grasmere; it recounts how he was first led to the love of nature, and how the love of nature, led to the knowledge of man. Here in this little cottage, he also wrote his great Ode and nature poems inspired by his surroundings. These will be considered later under the interpretation of his poems. For several years he lived at Allan Bank, a short distance from Dove Cottage. During this time the greater portion of "The Excursion" was written, and the fragment of "The Recluse", which was not made public until I888. "The Excursion" is an account of a long walk made by Wordsworth in his own vale, with a humble but intellectual man, the Wanderer. The poet intended to compose a poem of three parts entitled "The Recluse". "The Excursion" is the second book, while "The Recluse" is only a fragment of the first part. The plan of the third division is unknown.

In I8I3 the Wordsworths moved to Rydal Mount, and this was the poet's home for the last thirty-seven years of his life. Since the house is not open to tourists, it can only be viewed from the outside. With the exception of a few modern improvements it remains, for the most part, as in the time of the poet. The house, mantled here and there with roses, ivy, and jessamine, is situated amid picturesque surroundings. It stands on the sloping side of Nab-Scar and commands an extensive prospect of mountains, woods, and lakes. The terraces present a pleasing view of the beautiful valley of the Rothay and the lake of

Windermere.The "far-terrace" on the mountain side was the favorite walk of the poet,when composing his verses.This walk,too,led to the little spot called "Nab-well".It was at Rydal Mount that Wordsworth wrote his poems entitled "Evening Voluntaries" and the "Ecclesiastical Sonnets".

In I843 he succeeded Southey as Poet Laureate.He died on the twenty-third of April,I850,and was buried in the secluded churchyard of Grasmere.The yew trees which he planted still stand near his grave.As his life and poetry were without display so is his resting-place.How much more fitting it is that he should be buried in the "native region" he loved so well, than in the crowded and ceremonial "Poets' Corner" of Westminister Abbey.

IV. The English Lake District as Interpreted in the Poems of Wordsworth

The interpretation of scenes of the Lake District in the poems of Wordsworth follows a general knowledge of the country and its influence upon its interpreter. Very few poets are so singularly connected with their surroundings as is Wordsworth, and in this section of the thesis it is attempted to reveal the close association of the poems to the Lake Region. This involves a careful study of the poems, and the identification of local allusions with places in the Lake District to which they refer. The similarity is determined mainly through descriptions, allusions, or the general spirit of the passages. It was characteristic of Wordsworth to blend several scenes into one description; thus it is often difficult to localize the reference to any actual spot. Furthermore, the poet was so absorbed in setting forth the inner meaning of nature, that he frequently subordinated the general characteristics of his scenes to the idealistic. This is one factor which makes certain passages of his poems obscure. However, there are allusions and descriptions which may be identified with particular scenes in the Lake District, and the association with the region adds correspondingly a new interest and meaning to his poetry.

The poems selected are only those in which the Lake District may be interpreted through descriptions or allusions. In some instances, as a means of verification, the association and circumstance will be given under which the poems were composed.

Since the material must be limited necessarily,all direct allusions,places specifically named,unless particularly descriptive will be excluded. In order to avoid repetition the poems are arranged in accordance with the places to which they refer,rather than in chronological order. The localities most directly associated with the poet are Cockermouth,Hawkshead, Grasmere,and Rydal;the more distant places are considered from these central points.

For a study of the poems relating to Cockermouth,it is natural to turn first to "The Prelude",where Wordsworth has recorded his childhood experiences. In Book I there are several allusions to the town,the old house,and the garden with the river flowing below the terrace-walk. His first recollections of his birthplace were of Derwent's "rocky falls"and "grassy holms". He has alluded to the influence of the river upon him:

> " .....
> That one,the fairest of all rivers,loved
> To blend his murmurs with my nurse's song,
> And,from his alder shades and rocky falls,
> And from his fords and shallows,sent a voice
> That flowed along my dreams?For this,didst thou
> O Derwent! winding among grassy holms
> Where I was looking on,a babe in arms,
> Make ceaseless music that composed my thoughts
> To more than infant softness, ..." (I)

He spoke of the baronial castle,as he saw,

> " .....the shadow of those towers
> That yet survive,a shattered monument
> Of feudal sway,"

and the bright blue river which passed,

> "Along the margin of our terrace-walk;
> A tempting playmate whom we dearly loved." (2)

As a lad the poet loved to lie by the side of the Derwent and

(I) "The Prelude"-Book I,line 270,page I28.
(All page references unless otherwise indicated refer to Cambridge edition of Wordsworth's Poetical Works-I904.)

(2) "The Prelude"-Book I,line 284.

read his favorite books:

"For a whole day together,have I lain
Down by thy side,O Derwent! murmuring stream,
On the hot stones,and in the glaring sun,
And there have read,devouring as I read," (I)

He has referred to the surroundings of his home:

" .....or scoured
The sandy fields,leaping through flowery groves
Of yellow ragwort;or,when rock and hill,
The woods,and distant Skiddaw's lofty height,
Were bronzed with deepest radiance,stood alone
Beneath the sky, ..." (2)

It will be remembered that Skiddaw is the lofty mountain rising behind Bassenthwaite Lake,midway on route from Cockermouth to Keswick.

From the garden of his birthplace,Wordsworth as a boy could see a path that led over a rocky summit of a distant hill. This height referred to in Book XIII is identified as that of "Mickle Brow".He spoke of his childhood,

" .....when a disappearing line,
One daily present to my eyes,that crossed
The naked summit of a far-off hill
Beyond the limits that my feet had trod,
Was like an invitation into space
Boundless,or guide into eternity." (3)

In a later poem he alluded to the garden of his Cockermouth home in the finding of a sparrow's nest in the hedge of roses along the terrace-walk.He discovered the nest by chance,

" ..... seeming to espy
The home and sheltered bed,
The Sparrow's dwelling,which,hard by
My Father's house,in wet or dry
My sister Emmeline and I
Together visited." (4)

Emmeline,we know,refers to his sister Dorothy.

In I833 he composed two poems expressing his reminiscences of his early home.These sonnets,"In Sight of the Town

(I) "The Prelude"-Book V,line 480.
(2) Ibid Book I,line 292.
(3) Ibid Book XIII,line I46.
(4) "The Sparrow's Nest" -page 262.

of Cockermouth" and "An Address from the Spirit of Cockermouth Castle",are of immediate notice for allusion;there are no particularly descriptive passages.However,at about the same time, he did write an interesting sonnet "To the River Derwent",

> "Among the mountains were we nursed,loved Stream,
> .....
> Where thy deep voice could lull me!" (I)

Again it is in his autobiographical poem,that Wordsworth has recorded his recollections of Hawkshead and the scenes which deeply impressed him.He has alluded continually to the vales, lakes,woods,and mountains of this district.The playground of his youth,so influential in his poetical growth,has drawn forth many phrases of admiration and of love:

> "In that beloved Vale to which erelong
> We were transplanted;-there were we let loose
> For sports of wider range .....
> .....'twas my joy
> With store of springes o'er my shoulder hung
> To range the open heights where wood-cocks run
> Along the smooth green turf." (2)

The "beloved Vale" is Hawkshead where he spent his school-days, and the heights refer to the grassy hills leading up to the moors between that village and Coniston.

In intimate communion with nature,the poet was surrounded by the valleys of Yewdale and Langdale,the heights of Wetherlam and those "lusty twins",the Langdale Pikes.He has referred to some of the pastimes of the schoolboys during their holidays:

> " .....when spring had warmed the cultured Vale,
> Moved we as plunderers where the mother-bird
> Had in high places built her lodge; .....
> ..... when I have hung
> Above the raven's nest,by knots of grass
> And half-inch fissures in the slippery rock
> But ill-sustained,and almost (so it seemed)
> Suspended by the blast that blew amain,
> Shouldering the naked crag, ..." (3)

(I) "To the River Derwent"-page 570.
(2) "The Prelude"-Book I,line 304.
(3) Ibid Book I,line 325.

The scenes of these plundering adventures took place in the little pastoral vale near Hawkshead. The "naked crag" is the so-called "Ravens' Crag" in Yewdale. Later, he described the mountain brooks and falls within this quiet valley. The boys with rod and line were led on,

> "By rocks and pools shut out from every star,
> All the green summer, to forlorn cascades
> Among the windings hid of mountain brooks." (I)

The neighboring lakes of Coniston, Esthwaite, and Windermere are also unforgotten as scenes of their explorations and vacations. It was while he was rowing on Esthwaite that a huge peak followed him, as he fancied, and suggested to him "unknown modes of being":

> "One summer evening (led by her) I found
> A little boat tied to a willow tree
> Within a rocky cove, its usual home.
> Straight I unloosed her chain, and stepping in
> Pushed from the shore. .....
> . . . . . .
> When, from behind that craggy steep till then
> The horizon's bound, a huge peak, black and huge,
> As if with voluntary power instinct,
> Upreared its head. .....
> And growing still in stature the grim shape
> Towered up between me and the stars, ...
> And measured motion like a living thing,
> Strode after me." (2)

The "craggy steep" is the ridge between Hawkshead and Coniston, while the "huge peak", is the summit of Wetherlam. The boating and skating scenes on Esthwaite and Windermere Lakes are well-known:

> "All shod with steel,
> We hissed along the polished ice in games
> Confederate, imitative of the chase
> And woodland pleasures, ...
> So through the darkness and the cold we flew,
> And not a voice was idle; with the din
> Smitten, the precipices rang aloud;

(I) "The Prelude"-Book I, line 486.
(2) Ibid Book I, line 357, 377.

"The leafless trees and every icy crag
Tinkled like iron;while far distant hills
Into the tumult sent an alien sound
Of melancholy not unnoticed,....." (I)

He has referred to the summer vacations spent on Windermere Lake:

"When summer came,
Our pastime was,on bright half-holidays,
To sweep along the plain of Windermere
With rival oars;and the selected bourne
Was now an Island musical with birds
That sang and ceased not;now a Sister Isle
Beneath the oaks' umbrageous covert,sown
With lilies of the valley like a field;
And now a third small Island,where survived
In solitude the ruins of a shrine
Once to Our Lady dedicate,and served
Daily with chaunted rites." (2)

The islands of this lake are Belle Isle,Lily of the Valley Island,and Lady Holm.Upon the latter there was formerly a chapel dedicated to St.Mary.The poet has alluded again to this lake:

"Midway on long Winander's eastern shore,
Within the crescent of a pleasant bay,
A tavern stood;no homely-featured house,
Primeval like its neighboring cottages,
But 'twas a splendid place,the door beset
With chaises,grooms,and liveries,and within
Decanters,glasses,and the blood-red wine.
. . . . . .
. . . the rhymes were gone that once inscribed
The threshold,and large golden characters,
Spread o'er the spangled sign-board,had dislodged
The old Lion and usurped his place, ...
..... The garden lay
Upon a slope surmounted by a plain
Of a small bowling-green;beneath us stood
A grove,with gleams of water through the trees
And over the tree-tops;" (3)

"Winander" is the old name for Windermere.The tavern was once the White Lion Inn at Bowness,and the description is quite exact.The spot called the bowling-green is referred to in "The Excursion".(4) It was on Esthwaite Lake that the poet took his

(I) "The Prelude"-Book I,line 435.
(2) Ibid - Book II,line 54.
(3) Ibid Book II,line 138.
(4) See Appendix,page i.

early morning walks,

"-Oft before the hours of school
I travelled round our little lake,five miles
Of pleasant wandering." (I)

Sometimes Wordsworth with his companions took more distant adventures.One trip was to Furness Abbey in the extreme south-western border of the Lake District.There they saw:

"...some famed temple where of yore
The Druids worshipped,or the antique walls
Of that large abbey,where within the Vale
Of Nightshade,to St.Mary's honour built,
Stands yet a mouldering pile with fractured arch,
Belfry,and images,and living trees;" (2)

Once more he has spoken of nature's influence upon his youth.He loved the sun because,

".....I had seen him lay
His beauty on the morning hills,had seen
The western mountain touch his setting orb," (3)

The mountain to which he has alluded is "old man" Coniston;this could be seen west of Hawkshead.

One of Wordsworth's fondest memories of his school-days was that of the cottages where the boys lived.It will be remembered that the poet boarded with one Dame Tyson,and he has almost immortalized her home:

"Ye lowly cottages wherein we dwelt,
A ministration of your own was yours;
Can I forget you,being as you were
So beautiful among the pleasant fields
In which ye stood? .....
..... Meanwhile abroad
Incessant rain was falling,or the frost
Raged bitterly,with keen and silent tooth;
And,interrupting oft that eager game,
From under Esthwaite's splitting fields of ice
The pent-up air,struggling to free itself,
Gave out to meadow grounds and hills a loud
Protracted yelling, ..." (4)

(I) "The Prelude"-Book II,line 329.
(2) Ibid Book II,line I02.
(3) Ibid Book II,line I85.
(4) Ibid Book I,line 499,535.

After a vacation he returned to this beloved abode,and found:

"A rude mass
Of native rock,left midway in the square
Of our small market village,was the goal
Or centre of these sports;and when,returned
After long absence,thither I repaired,
Gone was the old grey stone,and in its place
A smart Assembly-room usurped the ground
That had been ours." (I)

Later he referred to his fondness of watching the sun-rise,when he

" .....sate among the woods
Alone upon some jutting eminence,
At the first gleam of dawn-light,when the Vale,
Yet slumbering,lay in utter solitude." (2)

The eminence is one of the heights northeast of Hawkshead.Sometimes he gazed at the moon as it rose over the southern shore of Esthwaite,seeming,as it were,to belong to no other region,

" .....but belonged to thee,
Yea,appertained by a peculiar right
To thee and thy grey huts,thou one dear Vale!"(3)

In Book IV the poet has recorded that memorable summer vacation,when he returned to Hawkshead.He has described his journey from the ferry on Windermere,past Sawry Beck and Esthwaite,to the familiar town of Hawkshead:

"Bright was the summer's noon when quickening steps
Followed each other till a dreary moor
Was crossed,a bare ridge clomb,upon whose top
Standing alone,as from a rampart's edge,
I overlooked the bed of Windermere,
Like a vast river,stretching in the sun.
With exultation,at my feet I saw
Lake,islands,promontories,gleaming bays,"

He took the ferry across the lake:

"Thence with speed
Up the familiar hill I took my way
Towards that sweet Valley where I had been reared;

(I) "The Prelude"-Book II,line 33.
(2) Ibid Book II,line 342.
(3) Ibid Book II,line I95.

"'Twas but a short hour's walk,ere veering round
I saw the snow-white church upon her hill
Sit like a throned Lady,sending out
A gracious look all over her domain." (I)

The "familiar hill" leads from the ferry to Sawry;the church is that of Hawkshead which dominated the little village.He has expressed a feeling of pleasure,which anyone might experience, when he is returning to a loved home:

"What joy was mine to see thee once again,
Thee and thy dwelling,and a crowd of things
About its narrow precincts all beloved," (2)

One of the most familiar sights was the mountain brook:

"Nor that unruly child of mountain birth,
The famous brook,who,soon as he was boxed
Within our garden,found himself at once,
As if by trick insidious and unkind,
Stripped of his voice and left to dimple down
(Without an effort and without a will)
A channel paved by man's officious care." (3)

This brook had always been an object of interest to the school-boys.The brook was "boxed in" and covered with flagstones.It flowed under the square and main street,and appeared again on the other side of the village.(4)

One of the most characteristic descriptions of his return to his boyhood haunts is associated with that humble cottage, and

"That lowly bed whence I had heard the wind
Roar,and the rain beat hard;where I so oft
Had lain awake on summer nights to watch
The moon in splendour couched among the leaves
Of a tall ash,that near our cottage stood;" (5)

The place to which the poet referred in his description of his return homeward at early morning,when he became a "dedicated Spirit",is difficult to identify.In general,it is considered as

(I) "The Prelude"-Book IV,line I,I7.
(2) Ibid Book IV,line 40.
(3) Ibid Book IV,line 50.
(4) "The Prelude"-edited by Selincourt,page 52I.
(5) "The Prelude"-Book IV,line 85.

one of the heights near Hawkshead. Selincourt, however, identified it as a hill known as Ligging Shaw on Hawkshead moor.(I) He has claimed that it was the only point from which both the sea and the mountains could be visible:

"Ere we retired,
The cock had crowed, and now the eastern sky
Was kindling, not unseen, from humble copse
And open field, through which the pathway wound,
And homeward led my steps. Magnificent
The morning rose, in memorable pomp,
Glorious as e'er I had beheld -in front,
The sea lay laughing at a distance; near,
The solid mountains shone, bright as the clouds,
Grain-tinctured, drenched in empyrean light;
And in the meadows and the lower grounds
Was all the sweetness of a common dawn-" (2)

The poet has again referred to Sawry Brook on the road from Windermere to Hawkshead. He was coming back from a boat race, which had been held "upon Winander's spacious breast":

"My homeward course led up a long ascent,
Where the road's watery surface, to the top
Of that sharp rising, glittered to the moon
And bore the semblance of another stream
Stealing with silent lapse to join the brook
That murmured in the vale." (3)

In Book V he has alluded to Esthwaite Lake:

"Well do I call to mind the very week
When I was first intrusted to the care
Of that sweet Valley; when its paths, its shores,
And brooks were like a dream of novelty
To my half-infant thoughts; .....
..... I chanced to cross
One of those open fields, which, shaped like ears,
Make green peninsulas on Esthwaite's Lake:" (4)

After his return from Germany he greeted his "native region" thus:

"Yet, hail to you
Moors, mountains, headlands, and ye hollow vales,
Ye long deep channels for the Atlantic's voice,
Powers of my native region!" (5)

(I) "The Prelude"-edited by Selincourt, page 523.
(2) "The Prelude"-Book IV, line 318.
(3) Ibid Book IV, line 379.
(4) Ibid Book V, line 426.
(5) Ibid Book VIII, line 215.

The channels to which he has referred are Wastdale,Ennerdale,and Yewdale.In Book XII the poet has alluded to another interesting incident,the exact scene of which cannot be identified.It was one Christmas time,when he and his brothers went out to look for the "led palfreys" that should carry them home:

> "There rose a crag,
> That,from the meeting-point of two high-ways
> Ascending,overlooked them both,far stretched;
> Thither,uncertain on which road to fix
> My expectation,thither I repaired,
> Scout-like,and gained the summit;'twas a day
> Tempestuous,dark,and wild,and on the grass
> I sate half-sheltered by a naked wall;
> Upon my right hand couched a single sheep,
> Upon my left a blasted hawthorn stood;
> With those companions at my side,I watched,
> Straining my eyes intensely,as the mist
> Gave intermitting prospect of the copse
> And plain beneath." (I)

The road from Penrith to Hawkshead was by Kirkstone Pass and Ambleside.The place in question might be identified as that of "High Crag",two miles from Hawkshead.However,the problem arises that the brothers might have been going to Cockermouth;in this case,the spot would be identified with the ridge overlooking the road to Skelwith.The absence of the two companions,the "blasted thorn" and the "single sheep",has contributed to the uncertainty of the exact locality.Since these two roads from Ambleside meet within two miles of Hawkshead village,the conclusion is that either of the two crags would answer the description.

While at Hawkshead the poet composed in part the "Lines left upon a Seat in a Yew-Tree".This tree stood on a small common near Esthwaite Lake,and commanded a view of the mere.He has told us that the path by this yew-tree was his favorite

(I) "The Prelude"-Book XII,line 292.

walk during his schooldays,and,

"This lonely Yew-Tree stands
Far from all human dwelling:" (I)

During his first two college vacations he wrote a poem,"An Evening Walk",which he addressed to his sister.It is a noteworthy sonnet in that it describes the scene from which he dated his first moment of poetic consciousness.One evening he was walking along the road from Hawkshead to Ambleside.The sun was setting,

"And,fronting the bright west,yon oak entwines (2)
Its darkening boughs and leaves,in stronger lines;"

Another sonnet was written at Grasmere and refers to his return to Hawkshead;it begins,

"Beloved vale!" I said,"when I shall con
Those many records of my childish years," (3)

It seems fitting here to conclude with the poet's own farewell to this beloved region.It was at Thurston-mere,an old name for Coniston Lake,that the poet paid everlasting homage to the spot so dear to him:

"A grove there is whose boughs
Stretch from the western marge of Thurstonmere,
With length of shade so thick,that whoso glides
Along the line of low-roofed water,moves
As in a cloister.Once -while,in that shade
Loitering, ...
..... thus flowed my thoughts
In a pure stream of words fresh from the heart:
Dear native Regions,whereso'er shall close
My mortal course,there will I think on you;
Dying will cast on you a backward look;" (4)

Of the whole Lake Region it is Grasmere which is most closely connected with the poet and his poems.There is scarcely a walk,stream,or hill-side with which he is not associated;from his Grasmere home he has alluded to all the encompassing scenes

(I) "The Lines left upon a Seat in a Yew-Tree"-page 31.
(2) "An Evening Walk"-page 3,line 214.
(3) Sonnets on "Personal Talk"-page 347.
(4) "The Prelude"-Book VIII,line 458.

and localities;the orchard and garden,roads and heights,groves and valleys,or Easdale Brook and the River Rothay -all have been immortalized in his verse.Some of the many memorable scenes are the old parish church;the pool of the Leechgatherer on White Moss Common;the wishing-gate;the fir grove;the site of Michael's sheepfold in Greenhead Ghyll,and the home of the Solitary.

The vale of Grasmere could not be more perfectly described than the poet has portrayed it in "The Recluse".First he said:

"On Nature's invitation do I come,
By Reason sanctioned. Can the choice mislead,
That made the calmest,fairest spot of earth
With all its unappropriated good
My own;" (I)

Then he described this vale to which he had been attracted by nature:

"Embrace me then,ye Hills,and close me in;
. . . . . .
Pleased with thy crags and woody steeps,thy Lake,
Its one green island and its winding shores;
The multitude of little rocky hills,
The Church and cottages of mountain stone
Clustered like stars some few,but single most,
And lurking dimly in their shy retreats,
Or glancing at each other cheerful looks
Like separated stars with clouds between." (2)

There were hills,woods,green fields,and a beautiful valley in this locality,but Grasmere had something not to be found elsewhere.He could not name it,but it was:

"Something that makes this individual spot,
This small abiding-place of many men,
A termination,and a last retreat,
. . . . . .
Made for itself,and happy in itself,
Perfect contentment,Unity entire." (3)

(I) "The Recluse"-line 71,page 223.
(2) Ibid line 110.
(3) Ibid line 145.

On leaving for a tour of Scotland,the poet wrote a poem expressing his regret of departure.This vale was secluded by:

"Some barrier with which Nature,from the birth
Of things,has fenced this fairest spot on earth.
A pleasant transit,Grasmere! to resign
Such happy fields,abodes so calm as thine;" (I)

Two other poems,one written upon his return to Grasmere and the other an "Inscription on the Island at Grasmere",(2) need no mention.However,he did compose a delightful little sonnet by the side of Grasmere Lake.It reveals the quietness and peacefulness which is so characteristic of this mere:

"Clouds,lingering yet,extend in solid bars
Through the grey west;and lo!these waters,steeled
By breezeless air to smoothest polish,yield
A vivid repetition of the stars;" (3)

In the poems there are many allusions to Dove Cottage,but for the most part,it was the orchard which won the heart of Wordsworth.If one has visited the garden he can easily imagine the poet there,uttering those verses which were invoked in him by nature."The Green Linnet" is most closely connected with the orchard,having as it seems,the very atmosphere of the place imbedded in it.The poet was sitting in his "sequestered nook" watching the birds and the flowers therein:

"In this sequestered nook how sweet
To sit upon my orchard-seat!
And birds and flowers once more to greet,
My last year's friends together." (4)

The sonnet "To a Butterfly" also describes the garden,

"This plot of orchard-ground is ours;
My trees they are,my sister's flowers;" (5)

It was in this orchard that he beheld the Skylark rise from his nest and soar towards the clouds.It inspired him with a well-

(I) "Departure from the Vale of Grasmere"-page 294.
(2) See Appendix,page ii.
(3) "By the Side of Grasmere Lake"-page 348.
(4) "The Green Linnet"-page 292.
(5) "To a Butterfly"-page 278.

known verse of which only a line is quoted here,

"Up with me! up with me into the clouds!" (I)

In "The Kitten and Falling Leaves" the poet has described the kitten playing with the leaves,and then has alluded to the orchard:

"And with busy revellings,
Chirp and song,and murmurings,
Made this orchard's narrow space,
And this vale so blithe a place;" (2)

In one of the miscellaneous sonnets he has again referred to Dove Cottage:

"Well may'st thou halt -and gaze with brightening eye!
The lovely Cottage in the guardian nook
Hath stirred thee deeply;with its own dear brook,
Its own small pasture,almost its own sky!" (3)

Such poems as "To the Cuckoo","The Redbreast Chasing the Butterfly"(4), the series "To the Daisy",and "To the Small Celandine" have a new meaning,when associated with the poet and his orchard-ground.How well he loved this garden at Dove Cottage is shown in the poem,written when he left Grasmere to bring home Mary Hutchinson in I802.It is characteristically entitled "A Farewell".He has bidden farewell to his "little nook of mountain-ground",and then added:

"Sweet garden-orchard,eminently fair,
The loveliest spot that man hath ever found,
Farewell!-we leave thee to Heaven's peaceful care,
Thee and the Cottage which thou dost surround.
. . . . . .
Dear Spot!which we have watched with tender heed,
Bringing thee chosen plants and blossoms blown
Among the distant mountains,flower and weed,
Which thou hast taken to thee as thy own,
Making all kindness registered and known;
Thou for our sakes,though Nature's child indeed,
Fair in thyself and beautiful alone,
Hast taken gifts which thou dost little need." (5)

(I) "To a Skylark"-page 320.(See Appendix,page ii.)
(2) "The Kitten and Falling Leaves"-page 316.
(3) Sonnets on "Personal Talk" -page 347.
(4) See Appendix,page iii.
(5) "A Farewell"-page 283.

There is a series of poems entitled "On the Naming of Places",which center for the most part on scenes near Dove Cottage.The poet has alluded to Emma's Dell on Easdale Brook, Point Rash Judgment on the eastern shore of Grasmere,the height of Stome Arthur,Joanna's Rock on the bank of the Rothay,and the fir grove not far from his home.The first poem of this group was composed in the vale of Easdale where,Wordsworth has told us, many verses were suggested to him.It was an April morning,when roaming along the banks of the brook,he

> " ..... to a sudden turning came
> In this continuous glen,where down a rock
> The Stream,so ardent in its course before,
> Sent forth such sallies of glad sound, ...
> ..... Green leaves were here;
> But 'twas the foliage of the rocks -the birch,
> The yew,the holly,and the bright green thorn,
> With hanging islands of resplendent furze:
> And,on a summit,distant a short space,
> By any who should look beyond the dell,
> A single mountain-cottage might be seen." (I)

He named this "wild nook" Emma's Dell,but the exact spot cannot be identified.The brook is that of Easdale,and by his description one cannot wonder that it was one of his favorite haunts.The second of this group is addressed to Joanna,but the rock to which he has alluded has not been discovered.However, there are allusions in the poem to other familiar scenes:

> "While I was seated,now some ten days past,
> Beneath those lofty firs,that overtop
> Their ancient neighbour,the old steeple-tower,"(2)

The "lofty firs" refer to the fir trees near Grasmere churchyard;and later:

> "Our pathway led us on to Rotha's banks;
> And when we came in front of that tall rock
> That eastward looks,I there stopped short-and stood
> Tracing the lofty barrier with my eye
> From base to summit;" (2)

(I) "On the Naming of Places"-page 247.
(2) Ibid -page 248.(See Appendix,page iii.)

The "lofty barrier" is Helm-crag.

The third poem of this same character is more easily identified,it begins thus:

"There is an Eminence,-of these our hills
-The last that parleys with the setting sun;
We can behold it from our orchard-seat;
And,when at evening we pursue our walk
Along the public way,this Peak,so high
Above us,and so distant in its height,
Is visible;" (I)

The eminence referred to is Stone Arthur,which rises above the eastern side of Grasmere Lake.This poem is characteristic of Wordsworth's habit of drawing his imagery from various places. He has sacrificed truth for the sake of description,for the height cannot be seen from the orchard-seat.

Another sonnet refers to the path that used to follow the eastern shore of Grasmere to a point known as "Point Rash Judgment".It begins:

"A narrow girdle of rough stones and crags,
-A rude and natural causeway,interposed
Between the water and a winding slope
Of copse and thicket,leaves the eastern shore
Of Grasmere safe in its own privacy:" (2)

The most characteristic poem of this group is that which alludes to the fir grove at the north eastern end of Grasmere.It was a sacred spot to the poet,because it had been so dearly loved by his brother,John Wordsworth.This brother was drowned while on a sea voyage,and after his death the spot was named John's or Brother's grove.It was here that the poet composed the two pastoral poems "The Brothers"and "Michael".He has alluded to it:

"Upon a hill
At a short distance from my cottage,stands

(I) "On the Naming of Places"-page 249.
(2) . Ibid . page 249.

"A stately Fir-grove,whither I was wont
To hasten,for I found,beneath the roof
Of that perennial shade,a cloistral place
Of refuge,with an unincumbered floor." (I)

He has remarked on the beauty of the place at evening,

" ..... when the steep
Of Silver-how,and Grasmere's peaceful lake,
And one green island,gleam between the stems
Of the dark firs,a visionary scene!" (2)

Near the fir grove are the two heath-clad rocks to which he has referred.They are described very minutely:

"Forth from a jutting ridge,around whose base
Winds our deep Vale,two heath-clad Rocks ascend
In fellowship,the loftiest of the pair
Rising to no ambitious height;yet both,
O'er lake and stream,mountain and flowery mead,
Unfolding prospects fair as human eyes
Ever beheld." (3)

Multiple associations with the poet are clustered about this district.On a hill near the grove and between Grasmere and Rydal lies White Moss Common.It is a rocky knoll and derives its name from the unusual color of the moss growing upon it.Its little circle of water has become known as the pool of the Leechgatherer:

"Yet it befell,that,in this lonely place,
When I with these untoward thoughts had striven,
Beside a pool bare to the eyes of heaven
I saw a Man before me unawares:" (4)

On the same road and overlooking the lake stands "the wishing-gate".The"moss-grown bar",however,has now been replaced by a gate common to every New England country-side.The poet has noted that "the gate,time out of mind,has been called the wishing-gate,from a belief that wished formed or indulged there have been a favourable issue".(5) As a witness of magic lore,thus

(I) "On the Naming of Places"-page 322.
(2) Ibid page 323.
(3)"Forth from a Jutting Ridge"-page 779.
(4) "Resolution and Independence"-page 280.
(5)" The Wishing-Gate"-page 657.(See Appendix,page iv.)

stands

"Surviving near the public way,
The rustic Wishing-gate!" (I)

Beyond these memorable scenes on the way to Rydal is found the "Primrose of the Rock",or the "Glow-worm Rock".It is described:

"A Rock there is whose homely front
The passing traveller slights;
Yet there the glow-worms hang their lamps,
Like stars,at various heights;
And one coy Primrose to that Rock
The vernal breeze invites." (2)

It was on Greenhead Ghyll,"upon the forest-side in Grasmere vale",that the scene of "Michael" was laid.The story was suggested to the poet by the ruins of a sheepfold,which he found hidden in the hills.This pastoral poem begins:

"If from the public way you turn your steps
Up from the tumultuous brook of Greenhead Ghyll,
.....
The mountains have all opened out themselves,
And made a hidden valley of their own." (3)

On a hillside near the sheepfold there was a solitary dwelling,the abode of the shepherd.The cottage is particularly interesting as once having been the home of Wordsworth.In the poem it is called "The Evening Star",but the poet has noted that this name in fact referred to another house on the same side of the vale.(3) He has thus alluded to the cottage of Michael:

"Their cottage on a plot of rising ground
Stood single,with a large prospect,north and south,
High into Easdale,up to Dunmail-Raise,
And westward to the village near the lake;" (4)

Another poem suggested in this vale is "The Idle Shepherd-Boys" or "Dungeon-Ghyll Force".This fall is in the valley of Langdale,adjoining Grasmere.The poet said:

"It was a spot which you may see
If ever you to Langdale go;

(I) "The Wishing-Gate" -page 657.
(2) "The Primrose of the Rock" -page 684.
(3) "Michael" -page 238.
(4) Ibid page 240.

"Into a chasm a mighty block
Hath fallen,and made a bridge of rock:
The gulf is deep below;
And,in a basin black and small,
Receives a lofty waterfall." (I)

The scene of "The Waggoner" was laid in the midst of Wordsworth's own vale and hills.It was on the road from Grasmere over Dunmail-Raise to Keswick that the team of the Waggoner passed.At the beginning of the poem there is an allusion to Dove Cottage:

"For at the bottom of the brow,
Where once the Dove and Olive-Bough
Offered a greeting of good ale
To all who entered Grasmere vale;"

The Waggoner meditates aloud as he travels along the rocky road with its steep ascents:

" ..... though tough
The road we travel,steep,and rough;
Though Rydal-heights and Dunmail-raise,
And all their fellow banks and braes,
Full often make you stretch and strain," (2)

Helm-crag is also celebrated:

"Black is the sky -and every hill,
.....
Save that above a single height
Is to be seen a lurid light,
Above Helm-crag -a streak half dead,
A burning of portentous red;" (3)

One of the poems included in the "Evening Voluntaries" was composed by the side of Grasmere Lake.In general it speaks for itself:

"The leaves that rustled on this oak-crowned hill,
And sky that danced among those leaves,are still;"
(4)

The hill is one of the heights of the Silver-how group near the valley of Easdale.

(I) "The Idle Shepherd-Boys"-page 244.
(2) "The Waggoner"-page 332.
(3) Ibid page 333.
(4) "The Leaves that Rustled On This Oak-crowned Hill" -page 726.

Perhaps the most characteristic allusions to Grasmere are found in "The Excursion". The principal scene of the poem is chiefly that of Langdale fused with the neighboring vale of Grasmere. The poet told us that "he turned the comparatively confined vale of Langdale, its tarn, and the rude chapel which once adorned the valley, into the stately and comparatively spacious vale of Grasmere, its lake, and its ancient parish church."(I) It is assumed that the poet and the Wanderer left Grasmere Lake and passed thence to the valley of the Langdales:

> "We started -and he led me toward the hills,
> Up through an ample vale, with higher hills
> Before us, mountains stern and desolate;" (2)

From an eminence they looked down upon the valley which the Solitary had chosen for his retreat:

> "We scaled, without a track to ease our steps,
> A steep ascent; and reached a dreary plain,
> With a tumultuous waste of huge hill tops
> Before us; .....
> ..... when, all at once, behold!
> Beneath our feet, a little lowly vale," (3)

The "huge hill tops" alluded to are the summits of Lingmoor, a range of the Langdale group. The "lowly vale" is little Langdale. To continue with the description of the vale:

> "Urn-like it was in shape, deep as an urn;
> With rocks encompassed, save that to the south
> Was one small opening, where a heath-clad ridge
> Supplied a boundary less abrupt and close;
> A quiet treeless nook, with two green fields,
> A liquid pool that glittered in the sun,
> And one bare dwelling; one abode, no more!" (4)

The small opening leads down into little Langdale, while the "liquid pool" is Blea Tarn. The "one abode" then is that of the Solitary. From the window of this cottage the author looked out

(I) Preface to "The Excursion"-page 403.
(2) "The Excursion"-Book II, line 90.
(3) Ibid Book II, line 323.
(4) Ibid Book II, line 333.

upon two mountain summits,

> "..... on two huge Peaks
> That from some other vale peered into this.
> "Those lusty twins,""

These peaks are referred to as Langdale Pikes.They are picturesquely described when a storm arises:

> "-Many are the notes
> Which,in his tuneful course,the wind draws forth
> From rocks,woods,caverns,heaths,and dashing shores;
> And well those lofty brethren bear their part
> In the wild concert -chiefly when the storm
> Rides high;" (I)

In Book V the poet and his companions go down into Grasmere vale.The valley with its little gray church and dwellings is beautifully described:

> "-So we descend:and winding round a rock
> Attain a point that showed the valley stretched
> In length before us;and,not distant far,
> Upon a rising ground a grey church-tower,
> Whose battlements were screened by tufted trees.
> And towards a crystal Mere,that lay beyond
> Among steep hills and woods embosomed,flowed
> A copious stream with boldly-winding course;
> Here traceable,there hidden -there again
> To sight restored,and glittering in the sun.
> On the stream's bank,and everywhere,appeared
> Fair dwellings,single,or in social knots;
> Some scattered o'er the level,others perched
> On the hill-sides,a cheerful quiet scene,
> Now in its morning purity arrayed." (2)

The stream alluded to is the river Rothay.The three friends pursued their way to the church;and finding the door open,they entered.The interior of the chapel was revealed as:

> "Not raised in nice proportions was the pile,
> But large and massy;for duration built;
> With pillars crowded,and the roof upheld
> By naked rafters intricately crossed,
> Like leafless underboughs,in some thick wood,
> All withered by the depth of shade above.

(I) "The Excursion"-Book II,line 692.
(2) Ibid Book V,line 77.

"The floor
Of nave and aisle,in unpretending guise,
Was occupied by oaken benches ranged
In seemly rows; .....
A capacious pew
Of sculptured oak stood here,with drapery lined;
And marble monuments were here displayed
Thronging the walls;and on the floor beneath
Sepulchral stones appeared,with emblems graven
And foot-worn epitaphs,and some with small
And shining effigies of brass inlaid." (I)

Then they passed into the churchyard which was:

"..... beautiful and green,
Ridge rising gently by the side of ridge,
A heaving surface,almost wholly free
From interruption of sepulchral stones,
And mantled o'er with aboriginal turf
And everlasting flowers." (2)

and then:

".... straight we followed, -to a spot
Where sun and shade were intermixed;for there
A broad oak,stretching forth its leafy arms
From an adjoining pasture,overhung
Small space of that green churchyard with a light
And pleasant awning.On the moss-grown wall
My ancient Friend and I together took
Our seats;" (3)

Later they were joined by the Pastor,who told a tale centering around a mountain cottage.This was called Hackett Cottage on the mountain of Silver-how.The Pastor pointed to a distant dark mountain,where they beheld:

"A house of stones collected on the spot,
By rude hands built,with rocky knolls in front,
Backed also by a ledge of rock,whose crest
Of birch-trees waves over the chimney top;" (4)

The house of the sporting parson of Wytheburn,which is pictured so minutely,is easily identified.It stands on the ascent over Dunmail-Raise by the side of Grasmere road;and "the blue slabs of mountain stone",common to all the houses in the vale,remain as they were in the time of the poet.The vicar gave the group

(I) "The Excursion"-Book V,line I45.
(2) Ibid Book VI,line 605.
(3) Ibid Book V,line 228.
(4) Ibid Book V,line 693.

an account of the priest,and described his parsonage thus:

"Yet were the windows of the low abode
By shutters weather-fended,which at once
Repelled the strom and deadened its loud roar.
There snow-white curtains hung in decent folds;
Tough moss,and long-enduring mountain plants,
That creep along the ground with sinuous trail,
Were nicely braided;and composed a work
Like Indian mats,that with appropriate grace
Lay at the threshold and the inner doors;
And a fair carpet,woven of homespun wool
But tinctured daintily with florid hues,
For seemliness and warmth,on festal days,
Covered the smooth blue slabs of mountain-stone
With which the parlour-floor,in simplest guise
Of pastoral homesteads,had been long inlaid." (I)

The company led by the Pastor continued their walk:

"We clomb a green hill's side;and,as we clomb,
The Valley,opening out her bosom,gave
Fair prospect,intercepted less and less,
O'er the flat meadows and indented coast
Of the smooth lake,in compass seen:-far off,
And yet conspicuous,stood the old Church-tower,
In majesty presiding over fields
And habitations seemingly preserved
From all intrusion of the restless world
By rocks impassable and mountains huge." (2)

The hill side is Loughrigg,while the old church tower is that of Grasmere.

The poet has often alluded to the more distant dales and mountains such as Helvellyn,Ennerdale,and Ullswater.There are two roads from Grasmere which are mainly associated with the poet.One leads over Dunmail-Raise by Thirlmere Lake to Keswick; the other runs over Kirkstone Pass to Ullswater.In the vale of Keswick are Mt.Skiddaw,St.Herbert's Isle,and Borrowdale to which he has referred in verse.In the sonnet "Pelion and Ossa" Mount Skiddaw is compared to the Italian hills.The poem ends:

(I) "The Excursion"-Book VII,line 177.
(2) Ibid Book IX,line 571.

"What was the great Parnassus' self to Thee,
Mount Skiddaw? In his natural sovereignty
Our British Hill is nobler far;he shrouds
His double front among Atlantic's clouds,
And pours forth streams more sweet than Castaly."
(I)

Among the group of poems on "Inscriptions",there is one concerning St.Herbert's Isle in Derwentwater.The story deals with the last days of the Saint in his desolate cell,when:

"To heaven he knelt before the crucifix,
While o'er the lake the cataract of Lodore
Pealed to his orisons,and when he paced
Along the beach of this small isle ...." (2)

The most characteristic poem of this district is "Yew-Trees",in which the poet has alluded to the "fraternal Four of Borrowdale".

"But worthier still of note
Are those fraternal Four of Borrowdale,
Joined in one solemn and capacious grove;
Huge trunks!and each particular trunk a growth
Of intertwisted fibres serpentine
Up-coiling,and inveterately convolved;" (3)

Not far distant toward the west is Ennerdale where the scene of "The Brothers" was suggested.To the south of the vale rises the Great Pillar.The Priest of Ennerdale,in telling Leonard the story of the tragedy of his brother,alludes to it:

"You see yon precipice;-it wears the shape
Of a vast building made of many crags;
And in the midst is one particular rock
That rises like a column from the vale,
Whence by our shepherds it is called,The Pillar."
(4)

On the road from Kirkstone Pass to Ullswater there is Grisedale Tarn and Helvellyn which the poet has mentioned.The Pass has its own distinctive sonnet.Only a portion is quoted here:

" Oft as I pass along the fork
Of these fraternal hills:

(I) "Pelion and Ossa"-page 262.
(2) "Inscriptions"-page 261.
(3) "Yew-Trees"-page 292.
(4) "The Brothers"-page 232,line 364.

" Where,save the rugged road,we find
No appanage of human kind,
Nor hint of man;if stone or rock
Seem not his handywork to mock
By something cognizable shaped;" (I)

At the beginning of Book VIII in "The Prelude",there is a reference to Helvellyn:

"What sounds are those,Helvellyn,that are heard
Up to thy summit,through the depth of air
Ascending,as if distance had the power
To make the sounds more audible?" (2)

It is significant to note the poetic description of the carrying of sound.Probably the most familiar poem connected with the mountain is "Fidelity",the story of a faithful dog. Since the allusion to this lofty summit is very brief,it needs only a passing notice.

The poet has told us that he composed his "Elegaic Verses" in memory of his brother,John Wordsworth,near the mountain track that led from Grasmere to the vale of Paterdale. The point where the brothers parted was Grisedale Tarn.He said,

"Here did we stop;and here looked round" (3)

At Ullswater is the picturesque gorge called Airey Force.In a delightful little poem bearing its name,the scene is described in part as follows:

"-Not a breath of air
Ruffles the bosom of this leafy glen.
From the brook's margin,wide around,the trees
Are stedfast as the rocks;the brook itself,
Old as the hills that feed it from afar,
Doth rather deepen than disturb the calm
Where all things else are still and motionless."(4)

At the head of the lake lies Gowborrow Park.It was here the poet saw the daffodils which he has immortalized in verse.(5)

(I) "Kirkstone Pass"-page 561.
(2) "The Prelude"-Book VIII,line I.
(3) "Elegaic Verses"-page 324.
(4) "Airey-Force Valley"-page 774.
(5) "The Daffodils"-(See Appendix,page iv)

The poem is too familiar to quote,but it is interesting to compare it with the description of the scene as given in the Journal of Dorothy Wordsworth.It wil be found that the spirit of the two is very similar.Thus has she pictured the sight:

"When we were in the woods beyond Gowborrow Park,we saw a few daffodils close to the water-side.We fancied that the lake had floated the seeds ashore,and that the little colony had so sprung up.But as we went along there were more and yet more;and at last,under the boughs of the trees,we saw that there was a long belt of them along the shore,about the breadth of a country turnpike road.I never saw daffodils so beautiful. They grew among the mossy stones about and about them;some rested their heads upon these stones,as on a pillow,for weariness;and the rest tossed and reeled,and danced,and seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind,that blew upon them over the lake;they looked so gay,ever glancing,ever changing.This wind blew directly over the lake to them.There was here and there a little knot,and a few stragglers higher up;but they were so few as not to disturb the simplicity,unity,and life of that one busy highway." (I)

No scene,it seems,could have been more perfectly transcribed into verse,and no poem could express more characteristically the poet's deep love for nature.

Rydal Mount has also afforded descriptive scenes for many of the later nature poems.Although it was at Grasmere that Wordsworth reached the height of his poetical career,the first few years at Rydal were devoted to his most characteristic type of poetry.Themes were suggested to him by the surrounding

(I) Journal of Dorothy Wordsworth -page 106.

hills,the lake,and especially "the far-terrace".One of the most beautiful poems connected with Rydal is the Ode "Composed upon an Evening of Extraordinary Splendour and Beauty".Its familiarity renders it needless to quote,but its association with Rydal is significant.(I) It will be remembered that the far-terrace at Rydal which led to the upper road of Grasmere was a favorite walk of the poet.Here he composed many verses.In a little poem entitled "The Massy Ways,carried across these Heights" he has alluded to this terrace-walk:

> "Yet on the mountain's side
> A Poet's hand first shaped it;and the steps
> Of that same Bard -repeated to and fro
> At morn,at noon,and under moonlight skies
> Through the vicissitudes of many a year-
> Forbade the weeds to creep o'er its grey line."(2)

In front of Rydal Mount rises Loughrigg Fell,and its "solitary brow" suggested the sonnet "Aerial Rock".It begins:

> "Aerial Rock -whose solitary brow
> From this low threshold daily meets my sight,
> When I step forth to hail the morning light,
> Or quit the stars with a lingering farewell-" (3)

Another poem written about the same time alludes to the "wild duck's nest",which the poet observed on the island of Rydal Water.The sonnet describing this beautiful nest is too fanciful to be cited here.In "The Haunted Tree" the poet has referred to the oak tree in Rydal Park.He has stated that no one could ask for a canopy,

> "More ample than the time dismantled Oak
> Spreads o'er this tuft of heath, ..." (4)

In a group of miscellaneous sonnets there is one poem suggested by a scene from his Rydal home.The poet was watching a

(I) (See Appendix,page iv)
(2) "The Massy Ways"-page 646.
(3) "Aerial Rock"-page 568.
(4) "The Haunted Tree"-page 571.

slowly sinking star,

"But now the horizon's rocky parapet
Is reached,where,forfeiting his bright attire,
He burns -transmuted to a dusky fire-
Then pays submissively the appointed debt
To the flying moments,and is seen no more." (I)

The "rocky parapet" refers to the summit of Loughrigg Fell, which rises opposite Rydal Mount.He has alluded again to this ridge and Rydal Mere:

"Soft as a cloud is yon blue Ridge -the Mere
Seems firm as solid crystal,breathless,clear,
And motionless;and,to the gazer's eye,
Deeper than ocean in the immensity
Of its vague mountains and unreal sky!" (2)

Perhaps the most beautiful poems composed at this period were those to which Wordsworth gave the name of "Evening Voluntaries".One suggested by the side of Rydal Mere need not be quoted here,since it reveals primarily the poet's keen observation of nature.(3) Under Nab-Scar was the mountain path that led from upper Rydal to Grasmere.It was here that he produced among several poems,"The Eglantine" and "The Oak and the Broom".(4) It was here,too,that the poet saw the clouds gathering over Nab-Scar.He has spoken thus of them:

"Army of Clouds! Ye winged Hosts in troops
Ascending from behind the motionless brow
Of that tall rock,as from a hidden world,"

In this same poem he has alluded to his favorite path:

"A humble walk
Here is my body doomed to tread,this path,
A little hoary line and faintly traced," (5)

One sonnet is dedicated to Wansfell,a mountain which rises over Rydal Park.Wordsworth has apostrophized it as:

(I) Miscellaneous Sonnets-page 571.
(2) Ibid page 726.
(3) (See Appendix,page v)
(4) (See Appendix,page v)
(5) "To the Clouds"-page 774.

"Wansfell! this Household has a favored lot,
Living with liberty on thee to gaze,
To watch while Morn first crowns thee with her rays,
Or when along thy breast serenely float
Evening's angelic clouds." (I)

The last of Wordsworth's nature poems dealing with the Lake District is the series of sonnets to the River Duddon. These were composed at Rydal,but the river itself lies on the south western border of the Lake Region.He has traced it from source to outlet.This rivulet was as important to his later years as the Derwent was to his youth.He has addressed it as:

"Sole listener,Duddon!to the breeze that played
With thy clear voice,I caught the fitful sound
Wafted o'er sullen moss and craggy mound-
Unfruitful solitudes,that seemed to upbraid
The sun in heaven!" (2)

He has alluded to the stepping-stones:

"The struggling Rill insensibly is grown
Into a Brook of loud and stately march,
Crossed ever and anon by plank or arch;
..... what might seem a zone
Chosen for ornament -stone matched with stone
In studied symmetry,with interspace
For the clear waters to pursue their race
Without restraint." (3)

At Ulpha Kirk on a nearby knoll the little church stands of which Wordsworth said:

"How sweet were leisure! could it yield no more
Than 'mid that wave-washed Churchyard to recline,
.....
Or there to pace, ...
Soothed by the unseen River's gentle roar." (4)

In "An Evening Walk" composed while he was at Cambridge, the poet has given a concluding summary of the lakes:

" ..... 'tis mine to rove
Through bare grey dell,high wood,and pastoral cove;
Where Derwent rests,and listens to the roar
That stuns the tremulous cliffs of high Lodore;

(I) "Wansfell" -page 776.
(2) "To the River Duddon"-page 594.
(3) Ibid page 595.
(4) Ibid page 601.

"Where peace to Grasmere's lonely island leads,
To willowy hedge-rows,and to emerald meads;
Leads to her bridge,rude church,and cottaged grounds,
Her rocky sheepwalks,and her woodland bounds;
Where,undisturbed by winds,Winander sleeps
'Mid clustering isles,and holly-sprinkled steeps;
Where twilight glens endear my Esthwaite's shore,
And memory of departed pleasures,more." (I)

The study of his poems has revealed how completely Wordsworth absorbed the influence of his "native region",and how truly he was its interpreter.

(I) "An Evening Walk" -page 3.

V. Wordsworth as a Poet of the Dalesmen of Westmoreland and Cumberland

Since Wordsworth has utilized the Lake District in his poems,it is interesting to determine to how great an extent the dalesmen,the people of Westmoreland and Cumberland,influenced the modeling of his descriptive portraits.In order to understand the poet's general principle of composition as applied to his treatment of characters,it is essential to find out what sort of people these Cumbrian folk were.

For the most part,the dalesmen were of the class known in that region as "statesmen",or small peasant proprietors who possessed their own land.The district was at that time distributed among these independent peasant lords,whose farms had been passed down through generations.The people of Cumberland and Westmoreland were a mountain folk,who had been forced by natural conditions into certain occupations and habits of living.Therefore,they had become singularly adapted to their environment.Debarred by their mountains from social contacts with city life,they were refreshingly free from sophisticated formalities;and their mode of living was simple,hardy,and homely.In fact,it almost seems as if they constituted a little world of their own.In "The Recluse" the poet has pictured the dalesmen of his beloved region.He said of them:

> "Where kindred independence of estate
> Is prevalent,where he who tills the field,
> He,happy man! is master of the field,
> And treads the mountains which his Fathers trod."
> (I)

(I) "The Recluse"-line 380,page 226.

As clothes express personality,so the houses of these people,many of which can still be seen on the mountain side, express the personality of those whom they sheltered.Wordsworth has described the cottages of these dalesmen whom he loved:

"These dwellings mostly built of rough hewn stone,are roofed with slates,which were rudely taken from the quarry before the present art of splitting them was understood,and are,therefore,rough and uneven in their surface,so that both the coverings and sides of the houses have furnished places of rest for the seeds of lichens,mosses,ferns and flowers ..... add the little garden with its shed for beehives,its small bed of pot-herbs,and its borders and patches of flowers ..... an orchard of proportional size,a cheese-press,often supported by some trees near the door;a cluster of embowering sycamores for summer shade; ..... the little rill or household spout murmuring in all seasons;-combine these incidents and images together,and you have the representative idea of a mountain-cottage in the country so beautifully formed in itself,and so richly adorned by the hand of nature." (I)

Since Wordsworth learned to love man through the influence of nature,he would turn to the humble life of his countrymen for his characters.He chose the rustic life of the Cumbrian folk,because he felt that they were surrounded with what is the most beautiful in nature.They represented men free from all traditions and disguises.He has dealt with the homeliest aspects of country life,finding man at his best in simple every-day circumstances and situations.To Wordsworth

(I) "Guide to the Lakes"-section II,page 52.

the ideal man was the hardy and heroic type,the man of his rural vales,hills,and mountains.He had spent his youth among the plain and home-loving people of his native regions;he loved the shepherds,for to him they seemed identical with nature itself.He chose the simple unassuming folk of his own district,for only such characters could be in harmony with his scenic descriptions.He turned to men as he found them in his daily walks;thus he was attracted to obscure and humble persons,as the poor leech-gatherer and beggars.The themes of Wordsworth's poems were of waggoners,pedlars,beggars,and peasants,for to him they represented human nature in its truest and simplest element.In the poem of "Brougham Castle", the poet has portrayed a shepherd,whose description might readily be applied to himself:

> "Love had he found in huts where poor men lie;
> His daily teachers had been woods and rills,
> The silence that is in the starry sky,
> The sleep that is among the lonely hills." (I)

Although Wordsworth has everywhere emphasized his love for the rural life of the dalesmen,yet his own peculiar temperament caused him to pass by their rustic occupations and amusements.He was absorbed in nature and in people only in their relation to her.Nature aroused in him whatever was serious,reverent,and spiritual;and one can easily imagine why he was oblivious to such phases of country life as hunting and fishing,the market days,and other Westmoreland customs.It would be natural to expect that he would somewhat glorify the Lakeland peasant,since he was more concerned with the truth and impression to be conveyed than in the actual portrayal of

(I) "Brougham Castle" -page 359.

character. In most instances his sketches appear as representative of a class rather than the individual. Hence it is difficult to identify his characters; for, by his method, they are composite, several personalities being often blended into one. For this reason the human element in his poetry has a quality of unreality.

A study of those poems centering around the poet's ideal hero will reveal a character representing the Cumbrian folk, and one who will be in perfect accord with the peacefulness of his surroundings. Only those poems are considered here in which the characters are clearly typical dalesmen, and only such, for the most part, as were written in Grasmere. One of the most interesting and striking portrayals is that of Michael, the mountain shepherd. The poem is a simple story of the independent life of a typical Westmoreland "statesman". Michael is described as:

> "An old man, stout of heart, and strong of limb.
> His bodily frame had been from youth to age
> Of an unusual strength: his mind was keen,
> Intense, and frugal, apt for all affairs,
> And in his shepherd's calling he was prompt
> And watchful more than ordinary men." (I)

Michael was an aged dalesman who was forced by hard poverty to send his only son to the city, and who after his son had gone astray, lived on among the hills in silent loneliness. The character of Luke, the son, was drawn from a dalesman who had once lived in Dove Cottage. The shepherd is the interpreter of life in solitude, and the poet has portrayed him with a keen insight into human nature. When all hope in his son was lost ,

(I) "Michael" -page 238.

for many years,

"Among the rocks
He went,and still looked up to the sun and cloud,
And listened to the wind;and,as before,
Performed all kinds of labor for his sheep,
And for the land,his small inheritance.
And to that hollow dell from time to time
Did he repair,to build the Fold of which
His flock had need." (I)

Another favorite subject is that of the Leech-gatherer in "Resolution and Independence". Here Wordsworth has chosen a typical dalesman,but placed him in circumstances imperative to the development of that truth which he wished to exemplify. The poet said that he met the Leech-gatherer in Grasmere near Dove Cottage.(2) The description,however,is not a true representation of life. The hero of the story gained a livelihood by roaming the moors and gathering leeches from the ponds. He appeared:

"..... not all alive nor dead,
Nor all asleep -in his extreme old age:
His body was bent double,feet and head
Coming together in life's pilgrimage;
As if some dire constraint of pain,or rage
Of sickness felt by him in time long past,
A more than human weight upon his frame had cast." (3)

Wordsworth has revealed the close relationship between man and nature,which is so often expressed by incidental comparisons throughout his poetry. The Leech-gatherer is related to such objects of nature,as a huge boulder,a slow-moving cloud,and a sea-beast. Finally the poor man delivered his message,

"Once I could meet with them on every side;
But they have dwindled long by slow decay;
Yet still I persevere,and find them where I may." (4)

and thus he became an idealised figure.

(I) "Michael" -page 244.
(2) "Resolution and Independence" -page 281.
(3) Ibid
(4) Ibid page 282.

Then there is the "old Cumberland Beggar",which is one of the best portrayals of a true Lakeland character.This poem was not written in Grasmere,but the hero is representative of a class familiar on the roads during the poet's schooldays at Hawkshead.Here,too,the character is described together with the truth to be conveyed.There is an expression of deep sympathy and love for humanity in the lines:

"While from door to door,
This old Man creeps,the villagers in him
Behold a record which together binds
Past deeds and offices of charity,
Else unremembered,and so keeps alive
The kindly mood in hearts which lapse of years,
And that half-wisdom half-experience gives,
Make slow to feel,and by sure steps resign
To selfishness and cold oblivious cares." (I)

Benjamin,the Waggoner,bound for his Keswick home is another Wordsworthian hero.He seems to be more directly identified with a certain person called Jackson.The characters of this poem are natural,simple,and homely,and are drawn from fact. Benjamin is,

" ..... the Waggoner;
Who long hath trod this toilsome way,
Companion of the night and day." (2)

The poem affords an illustration of the poet's use of circumstances of every day life,for he has alluded to his habit of talking with such types of people.The Waggoner was a common sight in the vale:

"In him,while he was wont to trace
Our roads,through many a long year's space,
A living almanack had we;
We had a speaking diary,
That in this uneventful place
Gave to the days a mark and name
By which we knew them when they came." (3)

(I) "The Old Cumberland Beggar" -page 94.
(2) "The Waggoner" -page 332.
(3) Ibid page 339.

The poem "The Beggars" was written at Grasmere and deals with a female mendicant and her family. These roving travellers were a familiar sight in the town. The poet while out walking met the mother and later her two little boys. The woman, stretching forth her hand, advanced and appeared as:

"She had a tall man's height or more;
Her face from summer's noontide heat
No bonnet shaded, but she wore
A mantle, to her very feet
Descending with a graceful flow,
And on her head a cap as white as new-fallen snow."
(I)

In the poem of "The Brothers" Wordsworth has shown himself both as a poet of man and of nature, and has revealed them in their relationship to one another. The poem was composed in a grove at the north-eastern end of Grasmere vale. The story deals with two shepherd boys, who are again true examples of the dalesmen. One brother, Leonard, went to sea; the other remained at home. At the end of twenty years the sailor came back unrecognized and learned from the vicar the tragedy which had befallen his brother. Leomard relinquished his long cherished plan of living at home, and returned to the sea to become a gray-haired mariner. The influence of nature is emphasized in the seafarer's love for his native land. He is described thus:

"Oft in the piping shrouds had Leonard heard
The tones of waterfalls, and inland sounds
Of caves and trees:- .....
..... would often hang
Over the vessel's side, and gaze and gaze;
.....
Below him, in the bosom of the deep,
Saw mountains; saw the forms of sheep that grazed
On verdant hills -with dwellings among trees,
And shepherds clad in the same country grey
Which he himself had worn." (2)

At the close of Book IV of "The Prelude", there is another

(I) "The Beggars" -page 275.
(2) "The Brothers" -page 233.

familiar character of the poet,that of the wandering soldier. It was when Wordsworth was returning home after a night of adventure,that a ghost appeared to him in the form of a man. This is the solitary figure depicted.The passage shows the respect with which the poet treated even the humblest of his fellow men.

A pedlar is the hero of the great poem "The Excursion". In fact,all the characters are drawn from simple and rustic life,and chiefly from the dalesmen of Grasmere vale.Even the narratives told by the Pastor in the churchyard are those of simple lives in the village.The Wanderer is a picture of Wordsworth himself,"an idea of what he fancied his own character might have become in his circumstances".(I) His outward appearance,however,was derived from a packman,who occasionally resided in Hawkshead,and with whom the poet had often talked. It is one of his most complete and descriptive portraits.The Wanderer was one who,

> "..... loved to pace the public roads
> And the wild paths;and,by the summer's warmth
> Invited,often would he leave his home
> And journey far,revisiting the scenes
> That to his memory were most endeared." (2)

The poet knew him well,for he said:

> "We were tried Friends:amid a pleasant vale,
> In the antique market-village where was passed
> My school-time,an apartment he had owned,
> To which at intervals the Wanderer drew,
> And found a kind of home or harbour there." (3)

Through the Wanderer the poet has expressed his own reason for choosing the humbler life:

> "From his native hills
> He wandered far;much did he see of men,

(I) Preface to "The Excursion" -page 403.
(2) "The Excursion"-Book I,line 387.
(3) Ibid Book I,line 52.

"Their manners,their enjoyments,their pursuits,
Their passions and their feelings;chiefly those
Essential and eternal in the heart,
That,'mid the simpler forms of rural life,
Exist more simple in their elements,
And speak a plainer language." (I)

The Solitary was suggested to him by a man in Grasmere,who had fled from a world in which he found no peace.The elements of his character are made up of several persons with whom the poet was acquainted.He is described thus:

"I knew from his deportment,mien,and dress,
That it could be no other;a pale face,
A meagre person,tall,and in a garb
Not rustic -dull and faded like himself!" (2)

The Pastor represents an idea rather than any particular individual.He is brought by his pastoral office and love for rural life into close relationship with the peasants and their district.He is spoken of as he was known to all:

"..... -he prized
The ancient rural character,composed
Of simple manners,feelings unsupprest
And undisguised,and strong and serious thought,"
(3)

The meeting of the reverend Pastor and the Wanderer is a characteristic passage of Wordsworth,in which man is compared to objects of nature:

"To an oak
Hardy and grand,a weather-beaten oak,
Fresh in the strength and majesty of age,
One might be likened:flourishing appeared,
Though somewhat past the fulness of his prime,
The other -like a stately sycamore,
That spreads,in gentle pomp,its honied shade."(4)

The Miner described as having found his treasures after ten laborious years lived in Paterdale.The story is a fairly true account,and it illustrates an instance of perseverance.

(I) "The Excursion"-Book I,line 340.
(2) Ibid Book II,line 498.
(3) Ibid Book V,line II7.
(4) Ibid Book V,line 455.

This quality is exemplified in the Miner,who,when

> "..... all desisted,all,save him alone.
> He,taking counsel of his own clear thoughts,
> And trusting only to his own weak hands,
> Urged unremittingly the stubborn work,
> Unseconded,uncountenanced; ....." (I)

A character to whom the Pastor alludes as an example of irresoluteness is that of a person who lived in Grasmere.His name was Dawson,and his talents and weaknesses were as portrayed in the poem.He was one,who

> "..... lived not till his locks were nipped
> By seasonable frost of age;nor died
> Before his temples,prematurely forced
> To mix the manly brown with silver grey,
> Gave obvious instance of the sad effect
> Produced,when thoughtless Folly hath usurped
> The natural crown that sage Experience wears."(2)

The blind man referred to lived in Kendal,and was known for his scientific attainments.He is portrayed as a high-minded character.The Clergyman and his family in Book VII were the Sympsons,who lived in Grasmere.They were intimate friends of the poet.The Clergyman was a priest by function,but

> "..... still he loved
> The sound of titled names,and talked in glee
> Of long-past banquetings with high-born friends:"
> (3)

Not only the characters are typical of rural life,but the incidents which occurred are common every day events.In the course of their walk through the Lake Country,the author and his companion discussed only the most simple and commonplace affairs.

Through allusions and by authority of those acquainted with the life of the poet,there are characters which may be clearly identified.Although these portrayals are of intimate

(I) "The Excursion"-Book VI,line 218.
(2) Ibid Book VI,line 275.
(3) Ibid Book VII,line 216.

friends,they are at times infused with other personalities. Among this group are the series of "Matthew" verses.The poem "Matthew" is an idealization of one of the Hawkshead masters, Reverend William Taylor,who died while Wordsworth was at school.The following description is said to be a faithful portrait in so far as the underlying spirit is concerned:

"The sighs which Matthew heaved were sighs
Of one tired out with fun and madness;
The tears which came to Matthew's eyes
Were tears of light,the dew of gladness." (I)

The schoolmaster has also furnished traits for the old man in "The Two April Mornings" and "The Fountain",as well as in "The Address to the Scholars of the Village School".In these latter poems the master seems to be composed of characteristics of a class rather than an individual."The Yew-Tree Seat" is the occasion of another character sketch.On the eastern side of Esthwaite Lake about a mile from the village of Hawkshead stood a Yew-tree.Here,the poet often talked with a Reverend William Braithwaite,the world embittered philosopher depicted in the poem.He was one "who owned no common soul".He had gone forth into the world,but

"The world,for so it thought,
Owed him no service;wherefore he at once
With indignation turned himself away,
And with the food of pride sustained his soul
In solitude." (2)

Wordsworth has also alluded to three of his school companions.One William Raincock of Rayrigg was an expert in the art of mimicing owls by hooting through his fingers.The poet has pictured him most vividly,exhibiting his talent:

(I) "Matthew" -page II5.
(2) "The Yew-Tree Seat" -page 3I.

" There was a Boy: ye knew him well,ye cliffs
And islands of Winander!-many a time
At evening, ...
..... would he stand alone
Beneath the trees or by the glimmering lake,
And there,with fingers interwoven,both hands
Pressed closely palm to palm,and to his mouth
Uplifted,he as through an instrument,
Blew mimic hootings to the silent owls,
That they might answer him;" (I)

The schoolfellow who often accompanied the poet on his early morning walks around lake Esthwaite has been identified as John Fleming.He has alluded to this occasion as:

"Happy time! more dear
For this,that one was by my side,a Friend,
Then passionately loved;with heart how full
Would he peruse these lines!" (2)

There is another allusion to this companion:

"Oft,in the public roads
Yet unfrequented,while the morning light
Was yellowing the hill tops,I went abroad
With a dear friend,and for the better part
Of two delightful hours we strolled along
By the still borders of the misty lake,
Repeating favorite verses with one voice,
Or conning more,as happy as the birds
That round us chaunted." (3)

Another comrade of his schooldays was Robert Greenwood to whom he has referred as "the Minstrel of the Troop".The poet has related some of the youthful pastimes upon Windermere Lake:

"But,ere night-fall,
When in our pinnace we returned at leisure
Over the shadowy lake,and to the beach
Of some small island steered our course with one,
The Minstrel of the Troop,and left him there,
And rowed off gently,while he blew his flute
Alone upon the rock- ....." (4)

No consideration of characters can be complete without mention of the allusions to those who formed part of the family circle at Grasmere,namely:his brother,sister,and wife. The death of his brother,who perished in a shipwreck,was the

(I) "The Prelude"-Book V,line 369.
(2) Ibid Book II,line 331.
(3) Ibid Book V,line 558.
(4) Ibid Book II,line 165.

occasion of several poems."The Elegaic Verses" and the poems "To the Daisy" are the most important.In one of the latter sonnets he has described the death of his brother:

"Six weeks beneath the moving sea
He lay in slumber quietly;
Unforced by wind or wave
To quit the Ship for which he died,
(All claims of duty satisfied;)
And there they found him at her side;" (I)

In "The Character of the Happy Warrior" the portrait of duty embodied in a heroic soul is drawn mainly from that of his brother.The virtue of the soldier lies in accepting necessity and striving for a victory even though all hope may be lost. The Warrior,or John Wordsworth,has a noble spirit,

"Whose powers shed round him in the common strife,
Or mild concerns of ordinary life,
A constant influence,a peculiar grace;
.....
And,through the heat of conflict,keeps the law
In calmness made,and sees what he foresaw;" (2)

In "The Recluse" the poet has spoken of the happiness and peacefulness to be found in Grasmere,and has anticipated the return of his sailor brother to that happy vale:

"A never-resting Pilgrim of the Sea,
Who finds at last an hour to his content
Beneath our roof." (3)

The sixth poem "On the Naming of Places" refers again to his brother,and to the fir grove which was their favorite haunt. Here he is alluded to as the "silent Poet":

"When thou hadst quitted Esthwaite's pleasant shore,
And taken thy first leave of those green hills
And rocks that were the play-ground of thy youth,
Year followed year,my Brother! .....
.....

(I) "To the Daisy" -page 325.
(2) "Character of the Happy Warrior" -page 341.
(3) "The Recluse" -line 655,page 229.

"But thou,a Schoolboy,to the sea hadst carried
Undying recollections! Nature there
Was with thee;she,who loved us both,she still
Was with thee;and even so didst thou become
A silent Poet;" (I)

In "The Brothers" there is another allusion to Captain Wordsworth,as seen in Leonard,the seafarer. (2) All the references to the poet's brother give evidence of his great nobility of character,and especially of the deep affection with which he was regarded.

There are innumerable allusions to the poet's sister, all of which express his profound appreciation for all she has been to him. In them he has gratefully recorded her influence over him. One great tribute is:

"Where'er my footsteps turned,
Her voice was like a hidden Bird that sang.
The thought of her was like a flash of light,
Or an unseen companionship,a breath
Of fragrance independent of the Wind." (3)

In one allusion he has expressed his veneration so exquisitely, one is compelled to quote at greater length:

"And yet I knew a maid,
A young enthusiast,who escaped these bonds;
.....
She welcomed what was given,and craved no more;
.....
Birds in the bower,and lambs in the green field,
Could they have known her,would have loved;methought
Her very presence such a sweetness breathed,
That flowers,and trees,and even the silent hills,
And everything she looked on,should have had
An intimation how she bore herself
Towards them and to all creatures.God delights
In such a being;for,her common thoughts
Are piety,her life is gratitude."(4)

After his experience in France,it was his sister who restored his mind to harmony and,to a certain extent,made him what he

(I) "On the Naming of Places" -page 323.
(2) (See page 53 of this manuscript.)
(3) "The Recluse" -line 89,page 223.
(4) "The Prelude" -Book XII,line 151.

eventually became.The poet could have made no greater acknowledgement:

"Then it was-
.....
She,in the midst of all,preserved me still
A Poet,made me seek beneath that name,
And that alone,my office upon earth;" (I)

In the poem of "The Sparrow's Nest" he has spoken of her as a blessing of his later years,as well as an influence in his early life.Then he added:

"She gave me eyes,she gave me ears;
And humble cares,and delicate fears;
A heart,the fountain of sweet tears;
And love,and thought,and joy." (2)

Again,in speaking of her influence,the poet said:

"At a time
When Nature,destined to remain so long
Foremost in my affections,had fallen back
Into second place,- .....
.....
Dear Sister! was a kind of gentler spring
That went before my steps." (3)

No man of genius,it seems,ever owed more to women than Wordsworth,and perhaps no one has ever paid them greater honor. To Mary Hutchinson,his wife,the poet has everywhere alluded with the deepest admiration and respect.The best known tribute to her is the little poem written at Grasmere entitled "She was a Phantom of Delight".He has spoken of her as:

"A perfect Woman,nobly planned,
To warn,to comfort,and command;
And yet a Spirit still,and bright
With something of angelic light." (4)

There is an allusion to her in "The Prelude".She was another

(I) "The Prelude"-Book XI,line 333.
(2) "The Sparrow's Nest"-page 262.
(3) "The Prelude"-Book XIV,line 256.
(4) "She was a Phantom of Delight"-page 3II.

influence,who

" ... came,no more a phantom to adorn
A moment,but an inmate of the heart,
And yet a spirit,there for me enshrined
To penetrate the lofty and the low;" (I)

Twenty-two years after his marriage,he composed two or three other poems expressing his affection for her,disclosing even deeper devotion than in the early years.One was written at Rydal Mount in I827.In this sonnet he told Mary that she was not a perfect angel,but he loved her for the hidden qualities of beauty which she possessed.He said:

"True beauty dwells in deep retreats,
Whose veil is unremoved
Till heart with heart in concord beats,
And the lover is beloved." (2)

Mrs.Wordsworth may not have been fair,but certainly no woman could have inspired an expression of greater deference and devotion.

(I) "The Prelude"-Book XIV,line 268.
(2) "To Mrs.Wordsworth" -page 638.

Summary

From the preceding chapters it is very evident that Wordsworth was the faithful interpreter of the English Lake District.This has been shown first by his intimate acquaintance with Lakeland;secondly,by the influence of the country upon the poet's life;and last,by the valuation of it as revealed in his poems.

The English Lake District has been rather fully described,because one must have a general familiarity with the region before he can appreciate to what extent Wordsworth absorbed the spirit of Westmoreland and Cumberland scenery.Here nature is revealed in all her changing moods and forms,for the district is characterized by a great variety of lakes,streams, vales,and mountains.The influence of nature upon Wordsworth was a gradual development.From his poems we learn that as a boy his daily companions were the rivers,hills,woods,and mountains; and that during his outdoor life at Hawkshead nature was first revealed to him and gave to him,as it were,a poetic consciousness.It was nature which attracted him to the Lake District;and with almost a magnetic influence she held him there for the greater portion of his life.Wordsworth was not only innately attuned to nature,but he possessed the keen insight to discern her truest and simplest elements.Thus the district and the poet were peculiarly adapted to one another.The one possessed all the beauties of nature;the other,the soul and genius to interpret her charms.

Nature and Wordsworth were,so to speak,inseparable.The

scenes in which he lived and the incidents of his daily life supplied the themes for his poetry. Since he found that human life was best interpreted in direct relation to nature, he chose the plain unconventional dalesmen for his character sketches. To him these people represented the best, and even were a part of nature herself. He rejoiced in nature, but in mankind only in so far as it was exemplified in the rustic and homely lives of the dalesmen. His poetry abounds with local allusions, and it is only when these are interpreted that the intimate relationship of the poems to the Lake Region is revealed. Understanding the district as Wordsworth saw it for the origin of his poems, one does not find it difficult to identify the numerous references to scenes in the locality, which they describe. There are constant allusions to the beauties of nature surrounding Hawkshead, his beloved vale of Grasmere, and the more picturesque spots of Rydal. No country could be more closely connected with its poet, and no region more immortalized in verse. It might be said that Lakeland existed by nature for Wordsworth, and the poet lived for his region. The English Lake District represented nature everywhere, and Wordsworth was its matchless interpreter.

Appendix

Page I3

Description of Dove Cottage as seen by DeQuincey in I807,when the poet was living there:

"A little semi-vestibule prefaced the entrance into what might be considered the principal room of the cottage.It was an oblong square,not above sixteen feet long,and twelve broad;very prettily wainscoted from the floor to the ceiling with dark polished oak,slightly embellished with carving.One window there was -a perfect and unpretending cottage window,with little diamond panes,embowered,at almost every season of the year,with roses;and,in the summer and autumn,with a profusion of jessamine and other fragrant shrubs. ..... I was ushered up a little flight of stairs,fourteen in all,to a little dining-room, ... Wordsworth himself has described the fire-place as his,'half-kitchen and half-parlour fire'.It was not fully seven feet six inches high,and in other respects,hearly of the same dimensions as the rustic hall below.There was, however,in a small recess,a library of perhaps three hundred volumes,which seemed to consecrate the room as the poet's study and composing room;and so occasionally it was." (I)

(I) "Literary Reminiscences". Thomas DeQuincey Vol.I,Chapt.X,page 267.

Page 2I (4)

The Pastor alludes to the bowling-green in his tale of the public life of a"Jacobite"and the"Hanoverian Whig".He says:

" ..... I have heard
My reverend Father tell that,'mid the calm
Of that small town encountering thus,they filled,
Daily,its bowling-green with harmless strife;"(2)

(2) "The Excursion"-Book VI,line 466.

Page 29 (2)

"Inscription on the Island at Grasmere" -page 261

This poem is interesting,because it expresses so characteristically the poet's love for solitude and his seeking companionship in nature.A portion is quoted here:

"Thou see'st a homely Pile,yet to these walls
The heifer comes in the snow-storm,and here
The new-dropped lamb finds shelter from the wind.
And hither does one Poet sometimes row
His pinnace,a small vagrant barge,up-piled
With plenteous store of heath and withered fern,
.....
..... and beneath this roof
He makes his summer couch,and here at noon
Spreads out his limbs,while,yet unshorn,the Sheep,
Panting beneath the burthen of their wool,
Lie round him,even as if they were a part
Of his own Household: ...,while from his bed
He looks,through the open door-place,toward the lake
And to the stirring breezes, ..."

The "homely pile" refers to an old shack that remained for many years upon the island.

Page 30 (I) "To a Sky-Lark" -page 320

"Up with me! up with me into the clouds!
For thy song,Lark,is strong;
Up with me,up with me into the clouds!
Singing,singing,
With clouds and sky about thee ringing,
Lift me,guide me till I find
That spot which seems so to thy mind!

I have walked through wilderness dreary
And to-day my heart is weary;
Had I now the wings of a Faery,
Up to thee would I fly.
There is madness about thee,and joy divine
In that song of thine;
Lift me,guide me high and high
To thy banqueting-place in the sky."

Page 30 (4)
"The Redbreast Chasing the Butterfly" -page 278

The scene is described as the poet saw it in the little orchard at Grasmere.

"What ailed thee,Robin,that thou could'st pursue
A beautiful creature,
That is gentle by nature?
Beneath the summer sky
From flower to flower let him fly;
'Tis all that he wishes to do.
The cheerer Thou of our in-door sadness,
He is the friend of our summer gladness;
What hinders,then,that ye should be
Playmates in the sunny weather,
And fly about in the air together!
His beautiful wings in crimson are drest,
A crimson as bright as thine own:
Would'st thou be happy in thy nest,
O pious Bird! whom man loves best,
Love him,or leave him alone!"

Page 31 (2) "To Joanna" -page 248

In this same poem the poet has alluded to all the great heights of the Lake Region. Although the description is rather elaborate,he has tried to set forth the striking effect of sound as occasioned by Joanna's laughter. It is pictured as follows:

"The Rock,like something starting from a sleep,
Took up the Lady's voice,and laughed again;
That ancient Woman seated on Helm-crag
Was ready with her cavern;Hammer-scar,
And the tall Steep of Silver-how,sent forth
A noise of laughter;southern Loughrigg heard,
And Fairfield answered with a mountain tone;
Helvellyn far into the clear blue sky
Carried the Lady's voice,-old Skiddaw blew
His speaking-trumpet;-back out of the clouds
Of Glaramara southward came the voice;
And Kirkstone tossed it from his misty head,"

Page 33 (5) "The Wishing-Gate" -page 657

"When magic lore abjured its might,
Ye did not forfeit one dear right,
One tender claim abate;
Witness this symbol of your sway,
Surviving near the public way,
The rustic Wishing-gate!
.....
Smile if thou wilt,but not in scorn,
If some,by ceaseless pains outworn,
Here crave an easier lot;
If some have thirsted to renew
A broken vow,or bind a true,
With firmer,holier knot."

Page 4I (5) "The Daffodils" -page 3II

"I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host,of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake,beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance."

Page 43 (I) "Composed upon An Evening of Extraordinary Splendour and Beauty" -page 566

Stanza 2:

"No sound is uttered,-but a deep
And solemn harmony pervades
The hollow vale from steep to steep,
And penetrates the glades.
Far-distant images draw nigh,
Called forth by wondrous potency
Of beamy radiance,that imbues,
Whate'er it strikes,with gem-like hues!
In vision exquisitely clear,
Herds range along the mountain side;
And glistening antlers are descried;
And gilded flocks appear.
Thine is the tranquil hour,purpureal Eve!
But long as god-like wish,or hope divine,
Informs my spirit,ne'er can I believe
That this magnificence is wholly thine!
-From worlds not quickened by the sun
A portion of the gift is won;
An intermingling of Heaven's pomp is spread
On ground which British shepherds tread!"

Page 44 (3) "By the Side of Rydal Mere" -page 725

"The Linnet's warble,sinking towards a close,
Hints to the thrush 'tis time for their repose;
The shrill-voiced thrush is heedless,and again
The monitor revives his own sweet strain;
But both will soon be mastered,and the copse
Be left as silent as the mountain-tops,
Ere some commanding star dismiss to rest
The throng of rooks,that now,from twig or nest,
(After a steady flight on home-bound wings
And a last game of mazy hoverings
Around their ancient grove)with cawing noise
Disturb the liquid music's equipoise."

Page 44 (4) "The Oak and The Broom" -page 252

"I saw a crag,a lofty stone
As ever tempest beat!
Out of its head an Oak had grown
A Broom out of its feet."

The stone is a precipice of Nab-scar,which was covered with a shrub-like plant called Broom.

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